

REMARKS

Claims 22-39 are pending.

Claims 22, 28, 34 are provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of double-patenting over claims 1, 8, and 15 of co-pending application 11/381,075. A terminal disclaimer has been filed herewith. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be removed.

Claims 25-27, 31-33, and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to remove the term “allowing” and correct the minor informalities pointed out by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection be removed.

Independent claims 22, 28, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The independent claims have been amended to indicate that an indication is being stored in the on-line database that creates the association as previously claimed. Additionally, the independent claims now recite that an HTML-formatted web page is presented to the user. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment now recites statutory subject matter and this rejection be removed.

Claims 22-24, 28-30, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,465,167 to Cooper. Claims 25-27, 31-33, and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper in view of Bernstein (U.S. Patent 5,297,249). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and believe that the claims as originally filed are not anticipated by Cooper or are rendered obvious in view of Bernstein. However, to move the case to allowance, the following amendments are presented to clarify the intended thrust of the claims.

Independent claims 22, 28, and 34 have been amended to more particularly point out that users may utilize a web browser to interact with the on-line database over a public network. The claims now recite that the user is presented with an HTML-formatted web page through which the user may interact with the database. As can be seen from FIGS. 2D-2T of the instant specification, users may interact with the online database through a conventional web browser as now clarified in this amendment. The independent claims have also been amended to more particularly recite that the network over which the interactions are being performed is a public network, such as the Internet.

The present invention as now claimed provides for an environment in which users may post an entry in an on-line database, and then index the entry into a category of their choice. If there is no satisfactory category already present in the on-line database, the user may create one of their own. The user may also enter a brief description of the category. This functionality is illustrated in FIG. 2M.

The entry is then published over the public network and readily available to be searched and viewed by other users of the public network. The present invention as now claimed does not require any software be installed on the user's machines, as users interact directly with the online database through any machine running a standard web browser. Applicants thus believe that the process as claimed is therefore a significant advance over the state of the art in 1995, and request reconsideration for this reason.

It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the reason of being dependent upon allowable base claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references of record do not teach or suggest allowing a user to interact with an online database as claimed. It is respectfully

requested that the pending case be reconsidered in light of these Remarks and Amendments and moved to allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the Examiner is personally invited to telephone the undersigned at 775-848-5624.

Respectfully submitted,  
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